



Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program Monthly Update **April 2006**

The Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program (HCDOP) is a partnership of 38 organizations that conducts monitoring and analysis and develops potential corrective actions to address the low dissolved oxygen problem in Hood Canal. Following is a summary of HCDOP activities for April 2006.

Scientific Studies

- *Project update*
 - Both the fourth Quarterly Report of the HCDOP IAM Science Study and the summary of the January 2006 HCDOP IAM Science Workshop have been posted at: <http://www.hoodcanal.washington.edu/news-docs/publications.jsp>. Please see these reports for details of recent study progress and emerging information. (Hannafious, HCSEG/Newton, UW)
 - The fifth HCDOP Quarterly meeting of the HCDOP IAM Science Study was held on April 25 at the University of Washington Applied Physics Laboratory from 12:30-3:30 pm. Minutes from the meeting have been posted at the website. (Hannafious, HCSEG/Newton, UW)
 - USGS anticipates releasing three reports by the end of May. They describe 1) the USGS estimates of nitrogen loading to Hood Canal through various hydrologic and marine pathways, 2) the USGS surface water data collection efforts from 2004, and 3) the USGS measurement of marine currents using the ADCPs deployed in fall 2004. (Turney, USGS)
 - Mason County Department of Health Services (MCDHS) is now sampling 12 locations for dissolved oxygen and nutrients. We recently added a sampling location at Lake Kokanee near the intake to the penstocks that flow directly to the Hood Canal. MCDHS is now fourteen months into the freshwater monitoring component. (Book, Mason County).
- *New information generated by projects*
 - There are now three species of invasive tunicates (*Styela* spp., *Ciona* spp., *Didemnum* spp.) that have been identified in Hood Canal and Puget Sound. There was a meeting hosted by PSAT/WDFW in Olympia on April 17 to discuss a strategy for an invasive tunicate response plan.

Corrective Actions

- *Project update*
 - The chum salmon compost project for 2005 has a near complete product. Compost will be utilized in the Joe Andrews Community Garden for organic fertilizer, distributed to tribal members for personal gardening needs and for retail sales. (Amiotte, Skokomish Tribe)

- The compost project has evolved into a program, which will attempt to generate revenue that will support the project for years to come. This year, native plants, vegetable and plants starts are available for retail sale on the reservation. All proceeds from *Skabob Creek Plants* return to the project in order to employ Skokomish youth in the summer and provide additional supplies. (Amiotte, Skokomish Tribe)
- Duane Fagergren, Terry Hull and Dave Christensen are developing the Nitrogen-Onsite Sewage study design and scope of work. The goal is to select a contractor in late May.
- Duane Fagergren, Stuart Glasoe and Terry Hull participated in a meeting convened by Mason County, facilitated by Dave Christensen, HCCC, to discuss recommendations and options for sewerage projects in the Skokomish to Hoodsport corridor.
- Duane Fagergren helped arrange an interstate agency team meeting on Hood Canal with Mason County consultants, L. Hoffman, A. O'Neil, and M. Sharar, to work on budgets and timelines for major sewerage projects in the Belfair and nearby north shore vicinity, and the Skokomish to Hoodsport corridor.
- Duane Fagergren drafted a letter on behalf of the interagency state team on Hood Canal to express our collective interest in assisting the staff and Board of County Commissioners in Mason County in whatever way they deem most appropriate.
- To date, Mason County's HCPIC team has sampled from Triton Head to Hoodsport, and Alderbrook to Twanoh Falls. They have not sampled from Hoodsport to Union as they intend to perform nutrient sampling in addition to fecal coliform sampling in this area. (Book, Mason County).

Watershed Planning

The Planning Unit in Water Resources Inventory Area 16 (the Skokomish – Dosewallips watershed) completed their draft watershed plan. This comprehensive plan was developed under RCW 90.82, and contains a number of recommended actions for the watershed and Hood Canal as a whole. A meeting is scheduled for May 11 at the Skokomish Tribal Center where the Planning Unit members will vote on final adoption. If passed by the Planning Unit, the plan goes to the Mason and Jefferson County Commissions for final approval. The draft plan is available at the following web site:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/apps/watersheds/planning/16.html>

(Wiatrak, Ecology)

Outreach

- *Public education and outreach updates*
 - Mason County's Hood Canal Pollution Identification and Correction Project (HCPIC) hosted a community meeting on April 13 at the Hoodsport Library. Sixteen community members attended.
 - The League of Women's Voters meeting held at Silverdale Beach Hotel April 19 featured guest speakers Congressman Norm Dicks, Representative Bill Eickmeyer, and Jan Newton. Jan provided a slide presentation on HCDOP and the IAM study that concluded with an active discussion with the audience.

- Jan Newton was invited to give the Environmental Engineering & Science Seminar at the University of Washington Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering on April 20 at the Seattle campus entitled "Hypoxia in Hood Canal, Washington: controlling factors and current status"
 - The University of Washington hosted "Washington Weekend" on April 27-29. The HCDOP IAM study was featured in two displays on April 29, one hosted at the Applied Physics Lab by Jan Newton and another hosted at the School of Oceanography by Mark Warner and Colin Smith. Approximately 100 members of the public viewed the displays.
 - An interim edition of Hood Canal NEWS was sent out May 4. This provides the opportunity to solicit more feedback from the public (including the next Septic operations and Maintenance question), promote the Hood Canal Youth Summit and the LHCWC Clean Water Forum, as well as help spread the word that oysters may be harvested from Belfair State Park and that Twanoh State Park is closed to camping due to a failing septic system.
 - The next full quarterly edition of HC NEWS will be sent out sometime at the end of June. The content deadline is June 5.
 - PSAT has finalized contracts with the following organizations to provide education to Hood Canal citizens WSU Extension Mason, WSU Extension Jefferson, Mason Conservation District, Jefferson Conservation District, North Mason School District, Washington Sea Grant.
- *Upcoming meeting notices/speaking engagements*
 - May 11-12: Jan Newton and Matt Wiley will present brief overviews on the HCDOP IAM study and its watershed modeling to the workshop on "Developing the Study Design for a Study of the Movement of Nitrogen from Onsite Sewage Systems" hosted by PSAT and the HCCC.
 - May 14-17: Emily Piper is working with Pat Pearson of WSU Jefferson County to present a power point at the Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals (ANREP) Conference in Park City, Utah. The topic is "Addressing Water Quality Issues with Social Marketing Approaches" The talk will focus on stewardship programs developed around Hood Canal.
 - May 17: Jan Newton was asked to provide a briefing of the HCDOP IAM study to the Hood Canal Coordinating Council.
 - May 22: 1-4pm Mary E Theler Ctr., Belfair: Planning Meeting for the Lower Hood Canal Watershed Coalitions' Clean Water Festival
 - May 25: 1-4 pm Kitsap SSWM Annex, Bremerton: Hood Canal Watershed Education Network
 - May 31: all day, Twanoh State Park: Hood Canal Youth Summit 2006.
 - July 22: "Clean Water Festival" in Belfair sponsored by the Lower Hood Canal Watershed Coalition.

Funding

- Funding now available
 - WSU Mason Co. Extension received a 20k grant (though this amount may increase slightly) from the EPA for the Hood Canal Watershed Pledge. This grant

money will fund a reprint of the Pledge book, as well as some promotion and coordination for the program. (Piper, WSU Mason)

- DNR received \$2 million in the 2006 legislative budget for creosote removal. Although this is a Puget Sound-wide project, some funds could be used in Hood Canal. The majority of the funds will be used to remove creosote pilings and the remaining funds will be used to remove stray creosote logs from beaches.

Legislative or Congressional action or briefings

- *Legislative contacts/meetings*
 - Plans are coming together to host Rep Bill Eickmeyer and many Legislative guests on a cruise on Hood Canal in late July to allow for further insight into the HCDOP IAM study and Hood Canal dynamics. The University of Washington has offered a ship; Jan Newton is working with Jeff Olsen and IAM leads re staging this events.
 - Rep. Bill Eickmeyer and staff were briefed on the status of the Molluscan Study in Belfair on May 4. Representatives from DNR (Fran McNair, Derrick Toba, Sarah Dzinbal) and HCSEG (Dan Hannafious, Matt Korb, Neil Werner) provided an update of the study that was based on input from a science meeting held in March to review the effort, done in coordination with the HCDOP IAM study.

Communications

The video clips that the EPA AmeriCorps volunteers made while they were with us in Puget Sound are posted on EPA's website, http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/extaff.nsf/Programs/Earth_Day. The DVDs are being produced.

Media coverage

AmeriCorps finds problems in Hood Canal

05:58 PM PDT on Thursday, April 13, 2006

By GARY CHITTIM / KING 5 News

http://www.king5.com/localnews/environment/stories/NW_041306ENBamericorpsKC.31911678.html